

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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Nebraska Supreme Court Celebrates Certification of Five New Interpreters for the Court System, December 30, 2009

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Supreme Court announces that five interpreters have successfully passed the oral certification exam to qualify as Nebraska Supreme Court Certified Court Interpreters. Four of the five interpreters are certified for interpretation in the Spanish language, one interpreter is certified in Mandarin-Chinese.

Interpreters Shelly Hodges, Sioux City, Iowa; Karen Bahr, Omaha; Kelly Varguez, Omaha; Jose Herrero, Lincoln and Claudio K. Huang, Omaha, will receive their certifications and take their oaths as Certified Court Interpreters on December 30 in a ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln. Members of the public are invited to attend this event which will be held in the Nebraska Supreme Court courtroom at 2:00 p.m. Janeth Murillo, a certified interpreter from Utah who recently moved to Omaha, will take the court interpreter oath during the ceremony to become a certified interpreter under Nebraska Supreme Court rules.

Justice John M. Gerrard of the Nebraska Supreme Court will preside over the ceremony and will speak of the need for providing equal access to the courts for all participants. Judges, probation officers, lawyers and community members will also participate in the ceremony.

“It is crucial to the overall fairness of the system that judicial proceedings are completely and accurately interpreted for non-English speaking participants. The Nebraska Supreme Court is pleased to welcome these interpreters who have worked so hard to perfect their skills. They are a tremendous resource for the state and role models for those still working toward certification,” said Gerrard.

These six individuals join 22 previously certified Spanish Nebraska court interpreters and eight sign-language interpreters who have successfully passed the certification requirements for their respective languages.

Nebraska is one of forty states who have joined the Consortium which works to create court interpreter certification exams, and promote other language services needed by courts nationwide.

Contact Sheryl Connolly at the Office of the State Court Administrator, 402-471-3730, concerning any aspect of the certification ceremony or the state interpreter program.

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